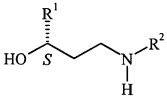
Amendments To The Claims

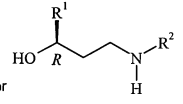
This Listing Of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for the preparation of salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoalcohol of formula:



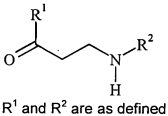
Ia, and/or



1b,

wherein R^1 is selected from the group consisting of 2-thienyl, 2-furanyl, phenyl, 2-thienyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, 2-furanyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and phenyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-4}-alkyl, phenyl, C_{1-4}-alkyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy, and phenyl substituted with at least one halogen and/or at least one C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy,

comprising asymmetrically hydrogenating a salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoketone of formula:



II,

wherein R^1 and R^2 are as defined above,

in the presence of a catalyst comprising a transition metal complex of a diphosphine

ligand.

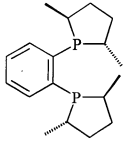
Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of substituted C_{1-18}-alkanoic acids, substituted monocyclic aromatic acids and substituted bicyclic aromatic acids.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 2, wherein R^1 is 2-thienyl, or ~~thienyl~~ 2-thienyl with at least one halogen, and R^2 is methyl or ethyl.

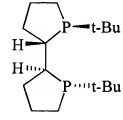
Claim 4 (Original): The process of claim 3, wherein the compound of formula II is selected from the group consisting of (*S*)-(−)-3-*N*-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanol, (*S*)-(−)-3-*N*-methyl-amino-1-(3-chloro-2-thienyl)-1-propanol, (*R*)-(+)-3-*N*-methylamino-1-(2-thienyl)-1-propanol and (*R*)-(+)-3-*N*-methylamino-1-(3-chloro-2-thienyl)-1-propanol.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 4, wherein the transition metal is selected from the group consisting of rhodium, ruthenium or iridium.

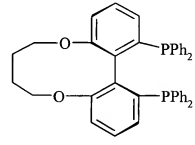
Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 5, wherein the diphosphine ligand is selected from the group consisting of:



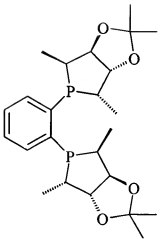
(*S,S*)-"Me-DuPhos",

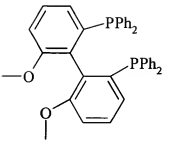


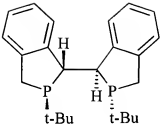
(*R,R,S,S*)-"TangPhos",



(*S*)-"C4-TunePhos",



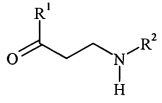




(*S,S,S,S*)-"Me-KetalPhos", (S)- and (*R*)-"MeO-BiPhep", and "(R_P,R_P,S_C,S_C)-DuanPhos".

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 6, wherein the compound of formulae Ia and/or Ib is obtained from it's corresponding salt with a carboxylic acid by hydrolysis in the presence of an alkali metal hydroxide or an alkaline earth metal hydroxide.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): A salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoketone of the formula:

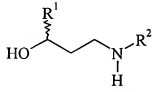


II,

wherein R^1 is 2-thienyl or 2-furanyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy groups, and wherein R^2 is C_{1-4}-alkyl or phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy groups.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The salt of claim 8, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of C_{1-18}-alkanoic acids,
(−)-2,3:4,6-di-O-isopropylidene-2-keto-L-gulonic acid,
(+)-2,3:4,6-di-O-isopropylidene-2-keto-D-gulonic acid, 2-keto-L-gulonic acid,
2-keto-D-gulonic acid, L-aspartic acid, D-aspartic acid, DL-aspartic acid, benzoic acid,
3-methyl-benzoic acid, salicylic acid, 1-naphthalene carboxylic acid and
2-naphthalenecarboxylic acid.

Currently 10 (Withdrawn): A salt of a carboxylic acid with an aminoalkohol of the formula:



I,

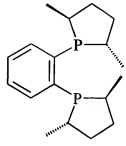
wherein R^1 is 2-furanyl or phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy groups, and wherein R^2 is C_{1-4}-alkyl or phenyl, each optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms and/or one or more C_{1-4}-alkyl or C_{1-4}-alkoxy groups, with the exception of salts, wherein the acid is (−)-2,3:4,6-di-O-isopropylidene-2-keto-L-gulonic acid or (+)-2,3:4,6-di-O-isopropylidene-2-keto-D-gulonic acid.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the transitional metal complex of a diphosphine ligand is a transitional metal complex of an aryldiphosphine ligand or a biaryldiphosphine ligand.

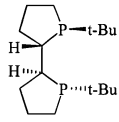
Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein R^1 is 2-thienyl or optionally substituted with at least one halogen, and R^2 is methyl or ethyl.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the transition metal is rhodium.

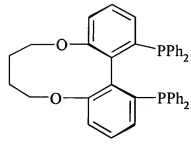
Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the diphosphine ligand is selected from the group consisting of:



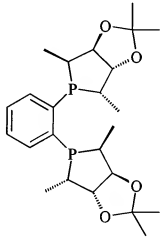
(*S,S*)-"Me-DuPhos",



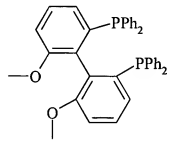
(*R,R,S,S*)-"TangPhos",



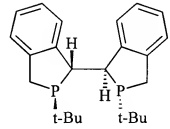
(*S*)-"C4-TunePhos",



(*S,S,S,S*)-"Me-KetalPhos",



(S)- and (*R*)-"MeO-BiPhep",



and "(R_P,R_P,S_C,S_C)-DuanPhos".

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 1, wherein the compound of formulae Ia and/or Ib is obtained from its corresponding salt with a carboxylic acid by hydrolysis in the presence of an alkali metal hydroxide or an alkaline earth metal hydroxide.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 2, wherein the substituted C_{1-18}-alkanoic acid is substituted with at least one C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{1-6}-alkoxy, aryl, amino, protected carbonyl, halogen, hydroxyl or further carboxylic.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 2, wherein the substituted monocyclic aromatic acid is substituted with at least one C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{1-6}-alkoxy, halogen

or hydroxyl.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 2, wherein the substituted bicyclic aromatic acid is substituted with at least one C_{1-6}-alkyl, C_{1-6}-alkoxy, halogen and hydroxyl.

Claim 19 (New): The process of Claim 1, wherein the catalyst is present in a catalytic amount.

Claim 20 (New): The process of Claim 1, wherein the carboxylic acid is a monocarboxylic acid.